

community. Today the shoreline is almost totally taken up with dense stands of Cumbungi and impenetrable Spiny Rush *Juncus acuta*. The lake has doubled in size since I first saw it, and one wonders how long the present wader habitat on recently flooded land will survive once the rising water level stabilises.

References

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Forest Raven Takes Feather-tailed Glider

At 1130 h on 16 October 1986 along the walking track at Lillypilly Gully, Wilsons Promontory National Park (Victoria), a Forest Raven *Corvus tasmanicus* was wheeling about and flying over and close to the tree tops. It was not calling and had nothing in its beak. Most of the observers present were using binoculars to study Koalas in the trees, and as they were separated by a few metres along the track slightly different views of what occurred were obtained.

The raven flew to the top of a dead Blue Gum *Eucalyptus globulus* approximately 30 m high, and poked its beak into a hollow in a branch. It flew off and alighted on a nearby large dead branch where it remained for between one and two minutes. It had in its beak a small mammal, mouse-like and of similar size, the large head visible on one side of the beak and four legs and tail hanging down. Although the gliding membranes were not noticeable, a fine fringe of hairs on either side of the tail was briefly seen silhouetted against the sky. From its size and the 'feathered' tail it could only have been a Feather-tailed Glider *Acrobates pygmaeus*. The bird hopped along the branch and whacked its prey against it before flying off. At the time of the incident visibility was good.

The incident was reported to National Parks staff and we were told that this was only the second record of this tiny marsupial for this National Park.

Although the Australian corvids are known to take small terrestrial mammals such as rats and mice, there are no previous records of arboreal marsupials as prey (Rowley & Vestjens 1973). The above observation is consistent with the fact that the Forest Raven is among the most forest-adapted and arboreal of the Australian corvids (e.g. Rowley 1973).

References

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